

I W C FIELD OPERATION - SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

Subject of Investigation:

Date of Investigation:

J. J. Schultz Containers  
Box 94  
Lemont, Illinois  
Mr. Joseph J. Schultz, Owner

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



June 11,12,13,16, 1980

Originated by:  
Main Office ☐  
Trt. Plant ☐ Clean Streams ☐  
Other ☐ Local Authority ☐

| <u>Person</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Surveillance  |             |             |
|               |             |             |

Type of Complaint:

Waterway ☒ Sewer ☐ Other ☐

Supervisor Assigned:

Water Samplers:

Sustich, Tomaras, Giedraitis, Waclawik, Pulaski

Sample ☒ Photographs ☒ Additional Information Attached ☐

INVESTIGATION:

June 11, 1980

J. Waclawik, PCO I, and the writer observed the facility during helicopter surveillance on this date. Investigators noted a large accumulation of steel and plastic drums surrounding the facility. No visible discharges to surface waterways were observed.

June 12, 1980

J. Tomaras, PCO III, A. Giedraitis, PCO III, and the writer returned to the facility to conduct a survey of plant operations. Investigators contacted Mr. Joseph Schultz, Owner, upon arrival.

Mr. Schultz indicated that this facility is a small drum cleaner and transfer point. The company purchases drums from several locations, wipes the interiors for scum or primary washes as necessary, then sells drums to larger drum recyclers for sale to the public. Mr. Schultz indicated that the company does not use alkaline cleaners although investigators observed such alkaline cleaners at the site. Investigators traced flows from drum washing through the yard of this facility to a hole in the ground south of the plant. No discharge pipe from this hole was observed nor could a direction of flow be determined. Mr. Schultz indicated, and investigators confirmed, that the area is not served by a sanitary sewer system and that sanitary wastes from this facility and several other neighboring buildings are served by septic tank systems, with effluents discharged by pipe into the Illinois & Michigan Canal.

June 13, 1980

A. Giedraitis, J. Waclawik, and the writer returned to the facility to conduct dye tests to determine the course of discharge from this facility. Investigators injected fluorescein dye into the waste stream at the point where it entered the hole and flushed the dye for three hours with non-contact city water. (On initial contact, the company was requested to immediately cease all discharges to the hole in question and

~~Y~~ Schultz Containers  
West, Illinois  
Joseph J. Schultz, Owner

257-6289

complied.) An inspection of the Illinois & Michigan Canal and several surface ponds near the facility revealed no accumulation of waste from the facility in any surface waterways.

June 16, 1980

C. Pulaski, PCO I, and the writer returned to the facility to continue inspection for possible paths of discharge of wash waters. Investigators again checked the Illinois & Michigan Canal and the several local ponds but found no evidence of either drum washing wastes nor dye in any surface waterways. As a significant rainfall during the interim should have resulted in the emergence of dye if by a direct route, it must be assumed that the path of flow away from the facility is not by a direct traceable route.

The discharge of drum washing wastes into an unknown subsurface drainage basin, along with the failure of dye tests to indicate a direct pathway of drainage to a surface waterway strongly suggests the possibility that the discharge from the facility may be entering the groundwater table and/or a subsurface stream. Present information, although sketchy, indicates that the area is primarily well-layered flagstone with fissures and it should also be noted that several natural springs within two miles of this site are routinely used for potable water. To provide assistance in determining any groundwater contamination by the presence of indicator compounds, investigators prepared a partial listing of the contents of the drums currently stored at this site. Although Mr. Schultz had indicated that all of the drums had been emptied prior to arrival at the site, subsequent washing may have introduced any of these compounds into the waste stream in question.

A total of 4 samples were obtained from the waste stream of this facility as it entered the ground. All samples were delivered to the R & D Lab at the West-Southwest Plant for analysis. Parameters to be analyzed were: General Chemistry, Cyanide/Phenol, F.O.G., and Trace Metals.

Total Samples: 4

Total Photographs (Polaroid): 8

Reviewed: R. Kaufmann  
R. Kaufmann, PCO II

R. Sustich  
R. Sustich, PCO I Badge #121

*Thomson*

Schultz Container

St. Louis, Illinois

Joseph J. Schultz, Owner

PARTIAL LISTING OF DRUMS PRESENTLY STORED AT THIS FACILITY

This is a listing of original contents of presently empty drums stored at this facility and is intended as a partial listing of compounds which may have been discharged from the facility during drum washing operations.

Acetone  
Acrylic acid  
Alkyl phenol-ethylene oxide  
Chromic acid  
Corrosion inhibitors (various)  
Cyanogran  
Cyclohexane  
Dioxabicyclo-(3,3,0)-octanes (various)  
2-Ethylhexylacrylate  
Gasoline  
Glycol ether  
n-Hexane  
Hydrofluoric acid  
Hydrofluosilicic acid  
Kerosene  
Lactic acid  
Magnesium nitrate  
Methacrylic acid  
Methanol  
Methyl ethyl ketone  
Monoethanolamine  
NALCO 71-D5 Antifoam  
Naphtha  
OCCIDENTAL shale oil  
n-Pentane  
Phosphoric acid  
Silicone (liquid)  
Sodium hydroxide  
Sodium Mono and di-dodecyl disulfonated diphenyloxide  
Tetraammonium ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid  
Toluene  
Trichlorethylene  
Trichloroethane  
Xylene glycol

R.P. Donahue Stone Co.

SLIP 5

CHICAGO SANITARY & SHIP CANAL

J.I. SCHULTZ CONTAINERS  
BOX 94  
LEMONT, ILLINOIS

ATCHISON, TOPEKA, & SANTA FE

TOTAL ACCUMULATION ~ 4000 DRUMS

DATE: 6/15/80  
NOT TO SCALE

Blustein

ILLINOIS & MICHIGAN CANAL

Grassy Area

POND  
(DISCHARGES TO  
I & M CANAL)

VARIOUS  
SLAG  
PILES

TRAILER

DRUMS

TRUCK

DRUMS

SANITARY  
LINES  
(NOT ACTIVE)

OFFICE/STORAGE

STORAGE/  
DRUM WASHING

DISCHARGE  
TO TRENCH 2

TRUCK

TRAILER

DRUMS

TRAILER

DISCHARGE  
TO GROUND

DRUMS

ABANDONED  
STORAGE TANKS  
FOR FORMER  
DISTILLERY

NEIGHBORING  
FACILITY

AREA BEING  
FILLED

DEPRESSED AREA  
WITH STANDING WATER

GULF MOBILE & OILCO/ANTRAK

MAIN STREET

STORM DRAINAGE  
FROM RESIDENTIAL  
AREA